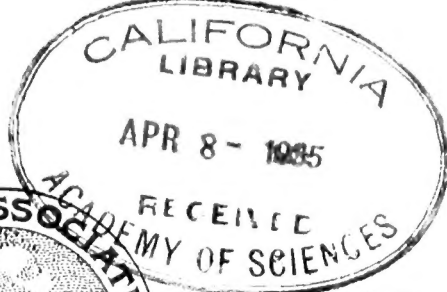


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# THE

MONTHLY



# GULL

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SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL, 1935

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## Looking for Shore Birds, January 21, 1935

This trip was planned so as to be at the Mount Eden end of the San Francisco Bay Bridge at the most favorable time of the tide. On this day high tide as given in the newspapers for Fort Point was: time 11.57 a. m. and height of tide 5.3 feet. High tide is about one hour later at the bridge and as the birds feed on the mud flats exposed by the receding tide, one should add three hours to the Fort Point tide time when the height of tide is four and a half feet; and when higher or lower than four and a half feet a proportionate amount of time should be added or subtracted. The conditions were ideal at 3:30 p. m. on this day.

Starting out from Alameda at 9 a. m. when the tide was unfavorable only a few Western and Red-backed Sandpipers and Sanderlings were seen along the shore of Bay Farm Island. Surf and White-winged Scoters were off shore.

A half mile north of Alvarado along the highway the low land was inundated on account of the heavy winter rains, and here along the edges of the deeper pools and all through the shallow ones, shore birds were feeding. Hundreds of Western and Red-backed Sandpipers, fifty Yellow-legs, a hundred or more Killdeer, several hundred Dowitchers and fifteen Wilson Snipes were observed. There were many Coots, some Pintails, Shovellers and other ducks, but distance and poor light made identification impossible. Gulls were numerous, including some Herring. Coming through the pass opposite Coyote Hills and looking down over the salt ponds I saw thirty-six American Egrets resting on a nearby levee, also a few Great Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons. Near the Dumbarton Bridge, Least, Western and Red-backed Sandpipers covered the available high ground. The dull greenish yellow legs of the Least could be plainly seen. Here also some three hundred Eared Grebes were present and Western Grebes were seen from the bridge.

Returning along the lower road from Palo Alto just before reaching the approach of the San Mateo-Mount Eden Bridge, I saw within a few yards of the paved highway, Yellow-legs, Killdeer and Sandpipers feeding. On the San Mateo approach hundreds of Sandpipers, together with a few Black-bellied Plovers, were flying and feeding along the beach. Large numbers of Canvas-backs and Scaups were out beyond the shore. From the bridge numerous Western Grebes, Surf and White-winged Scoters; some Ruddy, American Golden-eye and Scaup Ducks could be seen. The Mount Eden end was reached just as the birds were becoming numerous. The numbers were so great that counting was impossible, but taking all species into consideration, the numbers would well have passed the ten thousand mark. During the hour that I spent at this spot, the shore line as far as the eye could reach was dotted with the several species of Sandpipers, with a liberal scattering of Black-bellied Plovers, thousands of Western Willets and a far greater number of Marbled Godwits. The Godwits covered solidly some of the mud spits toward the Leslie salt works. I counted three Snowy and fifteen Semipalmated Plovers and two Ruddy Turnstones here. There were

flocks of Bonaparte Gulls whose breasts seemed dazzling white as they gathered on the flats with the more somber shore birds. At this end of the bridge there were also large rafts of ducks.

From my observations and from the records of those made by others, it seems that, at least, some individuals of all our common species of shore birds, with the exception of the Hudsonian Curlew, winter in this vicinity.

Shore birds are always fascinating and the setting here was perfect: birds in the foreground, a background of rolling hills covered with a mantle of fresh green, Mount Diablo a deep purple in the distance and the Hamilton range white with snow. The setting sun finding a rift in the clouds not only illuminated the birds but gave an opalescent sheen to all the water. The day ended along Bay Farm Island, where Sandpipers, Sanderlings and Willets were still busy.

Junea W. Kelly (Mrs. G. Earle), Alameda, California. February 12, 1935.



### Red Phalaropes

Some additional facts regarding the recent wave of migration of the Red Phalarope, *Phalaropus fulicarius*, received from Mr. Arthur Peake of Quatsino, Vancouver Island, B. C. Quatsino is located on the sound of the same name, the most northerly sound on the ocean side of Vancouver Island in lat. 50°-21' north, long. 128°-00' west.

Mr. Peake gave me data as to his movements and observations from June to December, 1934. In July he made a trip by sea to and around Cape Scott, the most northwesterly point of Vancouver Island, and south through the inland waters to Vancouver, B. C. Before reaching Cape Scott, numerous small flocks of Phalaropes, species not determined, were seen feeding among enormous patches of Portuguese men-of-war. From Vancouver, B. C., he went to Seattle and then back to Quatsino on September 3rd. No Phalaropes were seen on this trip other than those mentioned.

On September 9th, he sighted two Red Phalaropes on the Sound between Quatsino and the ocean, and on September 16th, six were seen on the Sound. On September 21st a single Red Phalarope was seen on the school playground at Quatsino. From September 29th to November 5th, Red Phalaropes were observed in large and small flocks all about Quatsino Sound. They gradually decreased from November 10th to December 8th, the last seen being two on December 15th, 1934.

The northern and southern points of reported observations, Quatsino Sound and San Diego, are some 1160 nautical miles apart, so there must have been enormous numbers of Red Phalaropes in this wave of migration.

Henry E. Parmenter, San Francisco, California. February 27, 1935.



**March Field Trip:** The annual field trip to Point Bonita was taken on Sunday, the 17th.

Forty-six enthusiastic members and guests, perfect weather, scenery which enraptured and a list of seventy-seven species of birds made a combination which left nothing to be desired.

The first trip to this region was made in August, 1922, when thirty-four species were noted. In August, 1923, thirty-seven species were noted. In 1925, the date for this trip was changed to March and the number of species noted began to increase so that by March, 1933, a small group of our most enthusiastic members braved a severe hail storm, accompanied by lightning and thunder, to record a list of seventy-seven species.

This incident seems to indicate that perhaps stormy weather makes the birds more active. And again, March may be one of the best months of the year for bird observation since a large number of the winter visitants are still

present and a number of summer visitants have arrived. These added to the number of permanent residents furnish quite a bird population.

While our group was searching the open hillsides on one side of the road and the live oak covered slopes, above the water, on the other side, one of our junior members who had preceded the group came hurrying back to report the discovery of "a gray bird with a long tail." Presently the bird flew across from one group of live oaks to another. Diligent search among the thick foliage was finally rewarded with the observation of a Townsend Solitaire, a rare and irregular mid-winter visitant.

Farther along six Ravens appeared from behind a hill and circled about, finally rising high in the air to disappear among the clouds.

In the willows at the head of Rodeo Lagoon, a Chickadee was seen flying in and out of a hole in a decayed stump in a manner that indicated that nesting was about to begin.

Members who visited the Marin end of the Golden Gate Bridge and tramped over the hills to rejoin the group, reported the discovery of a Nuttall Sparrow's nest containing three eggs, a rather early nesting date.

Seven species of ducks were noted on Rodeo Lagoon. Some of the male Ruddies were in nuptial plumage, as were two Eared Grebes.

Upon arrival at the lighthouse we were somewhat disappointed not to see the large number of Cormorants usually present, but Murres seemed to be everywhere, flying in and out of the Golden Gate and resting on the water.

The more ambitious members of the group returned to Sausalito on foot and observed enough species to bring the total for the day up to seventy-seven, as follows:

Pacific Loon	Western Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Red-throated Loon	California Gull	Pipit
Holboell Grebe	Short-billed Gull	Cedar Waxwing
Eared Grebe	Bonaparte Gull	Hutton Vireo
Western Grebe	California Murre	Lutescent Warbler
Pied-billed Grebe	Horned Owl (?)	Audubon Warbler
Brown Pelican	Anna Hummingbird	Pileolated Warbler
Farallon Cormorant	Allen Hummingbird	English Sparrow
Brandt Cormorant	Kingfisher	Western Meadowlark
Baird Cormorant	Red-shafted Flicker	Red-winged Blackbird
Mallard	Black Phoebe	Brewer Blackbird
Canvas-back	Say Phoebe	Purple Finch
Scaup species (?)	Horned Lark	House Finch
American Golden-eye	Nicasio Jay	Pine Siskin
White-winged Scoter	Raven	Willow Goldfinch
Surf Scoter	Crow	Green-backed Goldfinch
Ruddy Duck	Nicasio Chickadee	Spotted Towhee
Red-breasted Merganser	Plain Titmouse	Brown Towhee
Turkey Vulture	Bush-tit	Savannah Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Wren-tit	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Nicasio Wren	Junco
Sparrow Hawk	Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
California Quail	Varied Thrush	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Virginia Rail	Hermit Thrush	Fox Sparrow
Coot	Western Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Glaucous-winged Gull	Townsend Solitaire	

Members attending: Messrs. and Mesdames Dunshee, Ensign, Millard, Otis H. Smith, Stephens; Mesdames Bello, Courtright, Kibbee, Ruby H. Thomas; Misses Cave, Cohen, Danz, Dunshee, Paroni, Sterne; Messrs. Bryant, Bunker, Myer, Power, Robt. Taylor, C. R. Thomas; Masters Bolander, Kirker, Kirksey, Lehman, Lippmann, McClintock. Guests: Mesdames Black, Bunker; Dr. Wilson; Misses Anderson, Black, Merritt; Masters Dimmick, Long; Scouts Sevilla, Dobler, Rebard, Nagel, Bettoli.

Chas. A. Bryant, Leader and Historian.

## Audubon Notes

**April Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 11th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mrs. M. E. Davidson, of the California Academy of Sciences, whose subject will be "Collecting Among the Painted Indians of Panama." The lecture will be illustrated.



**April Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Lake Merced. East Bay members may take either No. 12 Mission Street car marked "Ocean" or Municipal car K, transferring to No. 12 car at Sloat Boulevard, getting off at entrance to Fleishhacker Playgrounds, where party will meet at 9:30 a. m. Bring luncheon. Leader, Chas. A. Bryant.



**March Meeting:** The 212th regular meeting was held on March 14th, room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty-five members and guests present. First Vice-President B. K. Dunshee presiding.

Mrs. R. M. Sims of Berkeley and Tom M. Kirksey of Hamilton Field, Marin County, were elected members.

The following observations were reported:

Chas. Bryant: March 10th, Manzanita, four American Egrets.

Mrs. C. S. S. Dutton: February 27th, Presidio, Creeper and Winter Wren singing; March 13th, partly albino Winter Wren.

Mrs. Kelly: March 9th, Leona Heights, White-throated Swifts; 14th, Lutescent Warblers abundant.

Harold Kirker: March 2nd, Golden Gate Park, Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Fritz Lippmann: February 23rd, Great Highway, eleven Snowy Plovers; March 10th, partly albino Brewer Blackbird; 9th, San Andreas Lake, Violet-green Swallows.

Eddie McClintock: March 20th, San Mateo Bridge, Cliff Swallows.

Commander Parmenter: February 19th, Collinsville, Solano County, 29 Cinnamon Teal; Suisun marshes, 6 American Egrets, 2 White-tailed Kites, 9 Marsh Hawks, Florida Gallinule, 4 Short-eared Owls; March 2nd, Lake Merced, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds; 8th, Suisun marshes, Ferruginous Rough-leg, 8 Marsh Hawks, 12 Tree Swallows; Sears Point-Vallejo Road, 5 American Egrets, 8 Green-winged Teal, 7 Bufflehead, 2 White-tailed Kites, 3 Marsh Hawks, 3 Short-eared Owls; February 25th, Borden Highway, 170 American Egrets, 7 Marsh Hawks, Short-eared Owl, Ring-necked Pheasant; March 12th, two Barn Swallows and two Mockingbirds.

Carl Smith: February 10th, on Nineteenth Avenue in San Francisco near the county line, American Egret; Cliff House, Wandering Tattler; 24th, San Mateo salt ponds, two Long-billed Dowitchers.

Robert Taylor: Oakland, February 13th, Allen Hummingbird; March 3rd, Lutescent Warbler; 4th, Chipping Sparrow; 13th, Western Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, Pine Siskins and Robins very abundant, over 1,000 Robins counted in the field next to his home.



**Correction:** In March issue, February field trip, Dumbarton Bridge should read San Mateo Bridge.

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....	1311 Grand Ave., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

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Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.